

in the Weald of Kent, *hirtaria* was apparently rare or absent from much of this area up until about 1950, when it appeared there in many country areas for the first time on record, and has been relatively numerous since. One suspects that perhaps a similar situation occurred in the adjacent area of East Sussex. — J.M.C.-H.]

LEIOPTILUS LIENIGIANUS (ZELL.) IN YORKSHIRE. — On going through some micros from a Rothamsted trap run in Harrogate in 1976, I came across one specimen of this rather local plume moth. According to Meyrick the moth is of southerly distribution — Kent to Devon and Norfolk, local. This record appears to show a more northerly extension of its range. A slide preparation was made of the genitalia confirming the identity. — E. S. BRADFORD, 6 Maple Court, Drayton Road, Borehamwood, Herts.

Current Literature

The Insects. (Readings from Scientific American) compiled by **T. Eisner** and **E. O. Wilson**. 344 pp., 6 colour plates + numerous illustrations. A4. W. H. Freeman & Co., 1977. £4.90 (limp) or £10.10 (hardback).

This volume is a collection of 35 papers, written between 1953 and 1976, reprinted from the journal *Scientific American*. The compilers have arranged the papers in five chapters, each prefaced by a short introduction and a very brief bibliography. The articles are well written, should be easily understood by the non-specialist, and are copiously illustrated with diagrams, charts, half-tones and colour plates. A number of distinguished entomologists have contributed papers, for example Paul Ehrlich on "Butterflies and Plants"; Sir Vincent Wigglesworth on "Metamorphosis and Development"; the late Prof. Hinton on "Insect Eggshells" and the Hon. Miriam Rothschild on "Fleas". Many other papers with intriguing titles, such as "Moths and Ultrasound", "The Energetics of the Bumblebee" and "The Biological Control of Dung", provide fascinating and informative reading.

The compilers describe the book as "... an anthology which develops the themes that insects are an ideal model for basic biological research and that fundamental biological questions may be answered through the study of insects ..." and that the articles "... give in depth coverage to basic topics ..." The former is a rather ambitious description of this entomological miscellany, and the latter is simply untrue. Each article gives a tantalising glimpse of a particular aspect of insects, but leaves one with the impression that the articles could have been much longer, without detracting from their "readability". Nevertheless, they provide interesting and enjoyable reading.

The presentation is in the style of the parent journal, and whilst some of the half-tone plates are rather poor, the standard of illustration is high. The text is arranged in three columns, and at today's prices the paperback version represents reasonable value for money. — PAUL SOKOLOFF.